



NEWS RELEASE

Joseph E. Kernan, Governor
Alan D. Degner, Commissioner

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Media Contact: Jeff Harris, 317/ 232-3396
Robert Shula, 317/ 234-0263

Kernan announces training grants for Elkhart's Audiovox Specialized Applications

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – Gov. Joe Kernan today announced that Elkhart's Audiovox Specialized Applications has been awarded two state grants to broaden and enhance the skills of its workforce.

Audiovox Specialized Applications (ASA) has received a total of \$73,473 through the **Indiana@Work** and **Incumbent Worker Training** grant programs, administered by the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, to upgrade the skills of new and existing workers. Headquartered in Elkhart and employing approximately 106 Hoosiers, the company provides integrated service solutions to its industrial customers.

"With the ever-changing demands of today's marketplace, successful companies must be able to quickly adapt," said Kernan. "Like other companies who have signed on to the Indiana@Work program, Audiovox knows a skilled workforce is crucial to meeting that challenge, which makes training opportunities like these so important. Not only can these individuals benefit from increased abilities and education, the company also can build a stronger team capable of delivering a stronger product."

Through the Indiana@Work program, ASA will use \$11,572 to assess the skills of 18 incumbent workers and up to 24 potential new hires as it seeks to fill eight job openings. ASA also will profile its customer and technical customer service representative, clerk and warehouse shipper and receiver positions.

At the same time, ASA will use its \$61,901 Incumbent Worker Training grant to provide 70 employees the opportunity to obtain certificates of technical achievement (CTA) in business, management and finance. Participants also will be able to obtain American Production and Inventory Control Society (APICS) certification in logistics and credit business associate degrees, as well as participate in a variety of technical training opportunities resulting in up to 243 total certifications and upgrades issued. Training will be done in cooperation with Ivy Tech State College and Signal Learning, an information technology training firm.

Founded in 1977, ASA is a leader in the research, development, manufacture and distribution of audio and video electronic products worldwide. Employing 106 workers, its major products line includes flat panel LCD entertainment systems, vehicle observation systems, and marine and automotive audio systems for recreational vehicles, van conversion, marine and commercial vehicle markets.

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Indiana@Work, a joint effort between the Indiana Department of Workforce Development (DWD) and the Indiana Department of Commerce, builds around Energize Indiana's four targeted sectors: advanced manufacturing, information technology, life sciences and high-tech distribution. Available through the state's WorkOne and WorkOne Express Centers, Indiana@Work has made skills assessments available to more than 26,000 Hoosiers and companies statewide have requested nearly 600 job profiles since its inception in January.

The centerpiece of Indiana@Work is WorkKeys®, a comprehensive system developed by ACT® that determines and categorizes the skills necessary for a specific job. It also matches the individual's skill level to particular job requirements and serves as a foundation for training programs that close skill gaps and develop a more capable workforce.

Job profiling, the employer segment of WorkKeys® helps businesses identify the skills and skill levels needed for workers to be successful on the job. Professional job analysts work with experienced employees to define the duties of each occupation and together, they create specific job profiles.

The Incumbent Worker Training grant was designed to create a world-class workforce in Indiana, through continuous improvement to the skill levels of Hoosier workers. All Indiana businesses are eligible to apply for this grant opportunity.

Through its various programs and initiatives, DWD is charged with continually improving the Hoosier workforce by assisting companies to create new jobs and improve employee skills. The agency offers a variety of training and educational grants, partners with the state's 27 WorkOne Centers, administers the unemployment insurance system, provides labor market information, assists employers with preparing workers for layoffs and closures, and operates a statewide job placement service.

For more information on this or other DWD programs, call 1-800-465-4616 or visit the web site at www.workforce.IN.gov.

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